(a) what are the details of technique of acupuncture used in the treatment of patients;

(b) what are the details of advantages and disadvantages of acupuncture;

(c) whether Government propose to expand acupuncture system in various hospitals of the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the details of hospitals in which acupuncture has been established?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Acupuncture is a traditional Chines therapy practiced by inserting needles at different parts in the body. The treatment is reported to be advantageous is providing relief from pain but is contra-indicated in certain conditions.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Information is not available.

Research on treatment of drug resistance diseases

307. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a mutli--drug resistant tuberculosis strain has developed, the treatment of which is extremely expensive, even in the U.S. whether it has developed;

(b) whether Government have initiated any research to develop/market any new indigenous drug for the treatment of such drug resistant diseases; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Council of Medical Research have reported that in India, most strains with drug resistance are sensitive to Rifampicin and hence the short course regimens are still effective. There is, therefore, no need for newer anti-tubeculosis drugs in India at present.

Expenditure on an in-patient per day in Government Hospitals

308. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the allocation/expenditure on an in-patient per day in Government hospitals; and

(b) what are the details thereof statewise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Admission in private medical and dental colleges

309. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private medical and dental colleges in different States are not admitting students, since abolition of capilation fees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are likely to be taken to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) No such report has come to the notice of the Government except in Karnataka State where some reservation to the new fee structure has been expressed. However, the admission process has yet to commence and the State Government is seized of the matter.